Volume 9, Number 1 February 1979

WESTERN TOKEN LEDGER

DEVOTED TO WESTERN STATES EXONUMIA

FURTHER (SAN FRANCISCO) TOKEN-HUNTING
Jerry F. Schimmel

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS IN EXONUMIA
Stephen Album

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Duane H. Feisel

Published by
WESTERN STATES TOKEN SOCIETY

The WESTERN TOKEN LEDGER is the official publication of the Western States Token Society, an informal, educational, non-profit organization dedicated to stimulating and maintaining interest in the tokens, medals and other exonumia of the Western states.

WESTS was founded in 1971 as the California Token Society, but in the same year the name was changed to the California-Nevada Token Society to reflect the interests of its members. In 1975, the scope of interest was expanded to include all the Western states, and starting in 1977, the name was changed again to its present form—Western States Token Society.

= MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION =

Dues: Dues are $7.50 per year, paid in advance. Members receive the WESTERN TOKEN LEDGER as well as other benefits. Those joining in mid-year receive the back issues for that year. Back issues of the LEDGER, as available, may be obtained from the Assistant Editor for 75¢ per copy, postpaid. Address changes should be reported to the Secretary-Treasurer.

Meetings: WESTS holds two general membership meetings each year—one in the spring (usually in San Francisco) and the other in the fall (usually in Stockton). Additionally, local membership meetings are arranged often by various members. All meetings are publicized in the LEDGER. Interested persons are invited to attend any of the meetings.

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= PUBLICATION INFORMATION =

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Display Advertising: Display advertising rates are $10 full page (4½"X7½" area), $5.50 half page, $3 fourth page, all for camera-ready copy. If copy is to be prepared, the rates are increased by 50%. Original copy for full page can be 5-5/8"X9" maximum for reduction to 80% to achieve final page size.

Articles and ads should be submitted to the editor as far in advance of the copy deadline as possible. Material submitted will not be returned unless requested specifically.

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WESTERN TOKEN LEDGER

MEETINGS MEETINGS MEETINGS MEETINGS MEETINGS

SATURDAY, APRIL 21 - SEMI-ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING of Western States Token Society at the Jack Tar Hotel, Geary and Van Ness, San Francisco, California. The meeting is scheduled in the Forum beginning at 3:30 PM.

This event is held in conjunction with the semi-annual convention of the California State Numismatic Association. The convention opens on Friday, April 20. A meeting of the California Exonomist Society is scheduled for 1:00 PM the same day.

The WESTS meeting will have a program speaker, Steve Album, who will talk about the California-related tokens and medals issued for the American Revolution Bicentennial Celebration.

At the CSNA Educational Forum, starting at 8 PM on Friday, Duane H. Feisel will be one of the speakers, and will talk on "Creation of a Medal--from Concept to Final Striking."

An auction is to be conducted by Joel L. Malter & Co., with sessions each of the three days of the convention. Of special interest is the Sunday session which features gold nuggets, gold and silver ingots, gold mining equipment, and old scales and weights.

Available will be an official convention medal. The bronze version will be given to each registrant, while the .999 fine silver will sell for $12.00. These medals may be obtained through the mail for $1 and $12, respectively, plus $1 each for postage and handling, from Charles Colver, 611 N. Banna Ave., Covina, CA 91724.

This year the convention chairman is WESTS member O.L. "Wally" Wallis. We are anticipating a nice turnout of members for this meeting. Bring along some tokens, as there will be a chance for socializing at the conclusion of the formal portion of our meeting.

SUNDAY, MAY 6 - Bimonthly membership meeting of the Bay Area Token Society, at home of Erle Hanson, 2599 Alice Wa-- Pinole, CA. Meeting commences at noon and runs until 5 PM. Any and all token collectors invited to attend. While the main emphasis is on transportation related tokens, there is always a lot of activity in

other types of exonumia as well.

From the south, exit from Interstate 80 at the Pinole/Hercules turnoff. Turn left on Pinole Valley Road, pass under the freeway, turn right on Henry St, and right again on Alice Way.

TENTATIVE MEETING IN JUNE IN FRESNO AREA: - It has been a while since we have had a WESTS meeting in Fresno, and now one is planned tentatively for Saturday, June 2. Details will follow in the next issue. - DHF

MEETINGS MEETINGS MEETINGS MEETINGS MEETINGS

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31 MARCH 1979: - I have just returned from the Chicago International Coin Fair, and have been busy taking orders from my 13th price list. List time is perfect for typing the Ledger, because for about 3-4 days, I try to stay home as much as possible to sit by the telephone. That's why I'm typing tonight!

APRIL 15: - As it is said about the best laid plans, my plan to get out the LEDGER a month ago did not work out right. I had an open "window" of time, but did not have the necessary material then. Once I did have the material on hand, I did not have the time needed to put this together. The next issue will come along quickly, however.

This is going to be a rather short issue, but the next issue will be a dandy! As is every editor's dream, there is enough material on hand now to do a complete issue, and more! There will be lots of illustrations.

Thanks to all of you who have responded with articles. It makes this job a lot easier. And those of you who are thinking of writing something, please don't hestitate to submit short notes or long articles--we can use them all.
- DHF

SO-CALLED RENAISSANCE: - A resurgence of interest in so-called dollars is underway. Spurred by the release of publisher's excess of Hibler & Kappen's standard work on the series, and by the issuance of a revised price supplement, collectors are rediscovering the series in droves. So far, the renewed interest is largely restricted to the East Coast, but as the series receives increasing attention from major dealers (e.g., Bowers & Ruddy, NASCA, Superior, Rarcoa, etc.), that interest will spread nationwide. So far, the emphasis has been placed on only those pieces listed in the 16-year-old original publication. New pieces, not yet known to the cataloguers in 1962, are still generally ignored, though naturally, most of the true rarities are amongst that group. This will change, but only after new studies and catalogs are made available. Personally, I've always liked the so-calleds, and am pleased to see them regaining some prominence in general numismatics. - SA

= SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT =
by William A. Williges

BALANCE FORWARD (see Vol. 8 #6)		$ 5.30
INCOME		
New Members for 1979, 5 @$7.50	$37.50	
Renewals for 1979, 100 @7.50	750.00	
Dues payment for 1980, 1 @7.50	7.50	
Postage fund gift	2.50	
Transfer of funds from Hal Dunn	300.00	
Sale of ads and back issues Ledger	20.50	
Total Income		1123.00
		$1128.30
EXPENSES		
Ledger - Vol. 8 #6	$129.22	
Printing renewal forms	4.21	
Supplies	5.00	
Postage (Duane Feisel)	2.15	
Postage (Wm. Williges)	3.68	
Total Expenses		144.26
BALANCE ON HAND 3-18-79		$984.04

NEW MEMBERS

#243 W. R. MORTIMEYER, P.O. Box 545, Cuba, MO 65453 Tel. 314-885-7415. Collects: "Good For" tokens of MO, Helena MT, and AR; pre-prohibition brewery tokens

#244 GEORGE VANTUMP, JR., P.O. Box 26523, Lakewood, CO 80226. Tel. 303-234-2758. Collects US transportation tokens; state and private sales tax tokens; ration tokens; Sambo woods; prison tokens; Colorado related material

#245 JOEL J. REZNICK, 1818 Apache Lane, Mt. Prospect, IL 60056. Tel. 800-621-0363 (office). Collects: transportation tokens; personal tokens of transportation token collectors; paper transportation tickets; encased coins; gasoline tokens; Sambo's wooden nickels; statuary frogs

#246 LORIN CRANSON, Rt. 5 Box 5820-B, Juneau, AK 99803 Tel. 907-789-7227. Collects: trade tokens of MT, CA and AK; saloon tokens of western states

#247 V. ROGER MOSES, P.O. Box 156, Verdugo City, CA 91046. Collects: military tokens; early tokens from the western states; post trader tokens; Mexico tokens; canine dog tags and licenses; Pasadena, Cal., material

#248 D. E. KELSEY, 820 No. 300 East, Nephi, UT 84648. Tel. 801-623-1815. Collects: UT trade tokens; bar & saloon tokens of Utah; all transportation tokens; old keys; tax tokens

REINSTATED TO MEMBERSHIP

#104 H. LEE NOTT, P.O. Box 3130, Fairview Heights, IL 62208. Tel. 618-397-0569. Collects: CO merchant transportation tokens; tokens "good for" odd values such as "1 shave", "1 bath", etc.; pre-1975 collector's personal tokens; CO postcards pre-1925; hot air balloon medals and tokens; encased postage storecards

DUES PAYMENT NOTICE: - This is the final call for payment of your dues for 1979. Notices, forms and a return envelope were sent out with the last issue of the LEDGER. If you do not have that material, simply send your dues for 1979--$7.50--to the secretary-treasurer.

For those not yet renewing, if you send in your dues payment NOW, you can probably be included in the new roster which will be sent to the printers very soon. This will be the last issue of the LEDGER that you will receive if you have not paid 1979 dues. A red check mark was placed on your mailing label if your payment for 1979 dues has not been received.

SALOON TOKENS TO BE LISTED: - A major effort is underway by George Owen and Joe Schmidt, Box 471, Bensenville, IL 60106, to prepare a catalogue of "Saloon Tokens of America." Information is needed on all tokens having the word "saloon" on them, including obverse and reverse inscriptions, size in mm, shape, composition and rarity. It is anticipated that the work will be completed by late summer. Members of WESTS can help in this project by submitting listings to Owens and Schmidt.

I would guess that you should send in listings for tokens not already listed by other cataloguers, as Owens and Schmidt should be able to pick up those listings from the various state catalogues that are readily available. - DHF

ANCHORAGE FUR RENDEZVOUS: - For some number of years a set of silver and bronze commemorative medals has been issued for the annual Anchorage Fur Rendezvous. From advertising seen, it appears that the medals are struck in a limited quantity of 500 pieces--or perhaps there are only 500 numbered sets. Anyhow, these sets are priced at $25.00, and sets from some earlier years are available still. Anyone interested can contact the event for additional information at P.O. Box 773, Anchorage, AK 99510. - DHF

FURTHER (SAN FRANCISCO) TOKEN-HUNTING

Jerry F. Schimmel

The series of plastic tokens I am listing below are ones which I have obtained during December 1978 and January 1979. Most of these are Food Stamp Change tokens and were obtained at the site of issue. Two stores, in Dupont Market, 1100 Grant Ave., and the Maryland Market, 330 Turk St., did use tokens, but they were unavailable at the time of my survey. No doubt I will be finding more as time passes. As far as I know, none of these have yet been listed by either Album or Kappen.

P-1 Pe 28 n/n ABU-DEES / MARKET
Food Stamp Credit / 1¢ / In Eligible Foods (white letters)
P-2 Pg 28 n/n (as above, but 5¢)
P-3 Pb 28 n/n (as above, but 10¢)
P-4 Pr 28 n/n (as above, but 25¢)
P-5 Pp 28 n/n (as above, but 50¢)
P-6 Pg 28 n/n FAIRVIEW / MARKET / KAY (white letters)
Food Stamp Credit / 5¢ / In Eligible Foods
P-7 Pb 28 n/n (as above, but 10¢)
P-8 Pr 28 n/n (as above, but 25¢)
P-9 Pp 28 n/n (as above, but 50¢)
P-10 Pr 42 p/p ROAD / RUNNER / 716 / MONTEREY BLVD. / S.F. / 94127
585-9512 (black letters)
P-11 Pw 42 p/p (same as last)
P-12 Pg 28 n/n ROSENBERG / MARKETS / SAN FRANCISCO (white let)
Food Stamp Credit / 5¢ / In Eligible Foods
P-13 Pb 28 n/n (as above, but 10¢)
P-14 Pr 28 n/n (as above, but 25¢)
P-15 Pp 28 n/n (as above, but 50¢)
P-16 Pe 28 n/n SUTRO / MARKET / & LIQUORS / 300 MORAGA ST / SAN FRANCISCO / CA (white letters)
Food Stamp Credit / 1¢ / In Eligible Foods
P-17 Pg 28 n/n (as above, but 5¢)
P-18 Pb 28 n/n (as above, but 10¢)
P-19 Pr 28 n/n (as above, but 25¢)
P-20 Pp 28 n/n (as above, but 50¢)

Notes on Individual Tokens:

P-1 through 5: 3451 - 22nd St., January 1979.

P-6 through 9: At 295 Orizaba Avenue, January 1979. "KAY" is the wife of the couple that own the store. No 1¢ denomination was issued through the store. I have some sets of these (4 pcs. per set) for $1 plus SASE (to P.O. Box 40888, San Francisco CA 94140)

P-10 & 11: Obtained December 1978. The white one is for drinks over one dollar, the red, for those under.

P-12 through 15: At 276 Noe St., January 1979. No 1¢ denomination was issued through the store. Currently there is only one Rosenberg Market.

Mavericks Index:

The tokens below do not have "San Francisco" or at least "S.F." in their legends:

Abu-Dees Market
Fairview Market, "Kay"

Notes on Previous Listings:

Many of the bars which used tokens that I collected in 1972 are of course gone now. Here are a few:

Glen Club - G24
Jokers Wild - J17
Jury Room - J24
The Geary - G13
Mark's Club Francisco - M46
The Roc - R43
Trujillo Shop - T61 (not a bar)
Valhalla - V3
Willee's Club - W65
Y-Not - Y3

Last-Minute Addition:

P-21 Pb 42 p/p MEHARRY'S / SALOON / RAIN CHECK / MEHARRY'S / SHADOW / BOX
(blank) (black letters)
P-22 Pg 42 p/p (same as last)
P-23 po 42 p/p (same as last)
P-24 Pr 42 p/p (same as last)
P-25 Pw 42 p/p (same as last)
P-26 Py 42 p/p (same as last)

*January 1979: at 3535 California Street. Each color represents a different denomination running from 75¢ to $1.95 in value.

FOOD STAMP TOKENS, FIRST EPITAPH: - The rumored termination of food stamp change tokens is now law. An article in the January 24, 1979, issue of Coin World, based on material submitted by Ronald Livingston of Lake Jackson TX, an amendment to the Food Stamp Act of 1964, approved September 29, 1977, contains a provision to permit the giving of cash change in sums of less than a dollar. After some unexplained delay, a letter of clarification was distributed by the Department of Agriculture, stating in part that "the final regulations to implement the new Food Stamp Act have been published and will become effective Jan.1,1979. At that point, stores will give cash up to 99 cents in food stamp transactions in which change of less than $1 is due."

What this means to collectors is that the now familiar metal, plastic and paper tokens & scrip (used from 1964-1970, and again from 1971-1978) will cease to be needed. Of course, there is always the possibility that the law will once again be amended to resurrect the food stamp change tokens, but the "inside" word is that this is very unlikely.

The phaseout of the tokens and scrip will have several effects. First of all, stores will no longer have to provide substitutes

for these small amounts, whether tokens, paper scrip, of, most commonly of all, register chits. As a result, stamp receipients will no longer be burdened with these substitutes, many of which were lost and never redeemed, to the detriment of the recipients, nearly all of whom are poor. For the poor and the elderly, especially the uneducated, this will mean a welcome simplification of their lives. This will also mean a savings to the stores, for although they benefitted from unredeemed tokens and chits, the cost of preparing the substitutes, of handling and accounting them, and the delays at the registers created by their use, more than offset the benefits of non-redemption.

Moreover, recipients will no longer have to return to the same store to redeem the substitutes, an important factor for those who have frequent occasion to shop outside their regular grocer. For these people, the effective savings could be as much as $2 per month, a lot of money for someone on a fixed income of $300 per month.

So, while we collectors might mourn the passing of yet another chapter in the history of tokens, the general benefits that will accrue from the termination of this rather unwieldy system will more than outweigh the disappointment of a handful of collectors. In any case, new chapters are being opened all the time, the latest being the sudden appearance of tokens (once again) in pinball and amusement machine arcades. - SA

NEW MILITARY TOKEN BOOK: - Patterned after his first book, James Curto has now prepared a new listing of about 3000 additional tokens not listed in his initial listing. This is about the same number as listed in the first book, published in 1970. The new book will include photographs of more than 100 pieces, and all tokens will be priced "in accordance with prevailing market prices."

Pre-release information suggests that the new catalogue will include the same type of material as described in the 1970 book plus commemorative medals relating to military subjects.

The new book will contain updated and enlarged listings of military abbreviations and of military installations which, at this time, are not known to have issued tokens. Descriptions of some 70 military token dies known to exist will be included. Most importantly, an index covering both the new and the 1970 book will be provided.

This companion volume will be issued in hardcover, 8½x11" size. Orders received before April 15 will be accepted at $10, while thereafter the regular price of $12.50 will be in effect. Advance orders may be sent to Michigan Exonumia Publishers, P.O. Box 1, Tecumseh, MI 49286.

It is hoped that the book will be received in time for a comprehensive review for the next issue of the LEDGER. - DHF

= COMPUTER APPLICATIONS IN EXONUMIA =

by Stephen Album

INTRODUCING THE COMPUTER: - You all have heard of the sensational progress in computer technology over the past several years, and may have wondered what, if any, effect it could have on our little hobby. The answer is that numismatics, both in its academic and commercial aspects, is undergoing a revolution comparable to that set off by the introduction of photography.

For the numismatic scholar, the computer opens up great possibilities for streamlining the handling of information. One application of this technology is the nascent field of word processing. Word processing involves the memory and recall of printed words, in a form where extensive correction and reorganization can be accomplished without the time-consuming and expensive process of retyping entire manuscripts. It can do away with the cumbersome card files that have been the bane of every cataloguer until now. Instead of a card file, we can now use a "floppy disc," which can hold about 100 pages of listings, in such a manner that by recalling the desired section on the screen of a work-processing machine, we can add or delete or alter listings quickly and efficiently. The catalog can be kept on one or more discs in such a fashion that it is ready to be typed (automatically, of course!), at the push of a button, into camera-ready copy. The catalog is kept on the tape, and is revised as one goes along, so that the distressing job of typing out the manuscript is simply no longer necessary. Unfortunately, such machinery is prohibitively expensive for more collectors to buy, but rentals are now available, including some self-service outlets which rent the equipment by the hour. However, learning to operate the equipment is somewhat complicated: a new vocabulary of terms and symbols must be mastered. But a couple weeks study should suffice.

Currently, our president, Duane Feisel, is using such equipment for keeping an up-to-date catalogue of modern tokens (post-1950) used in California. As he hears of new pieces (or corrections to already listed pieces), he simply enters them in their place in the sequence. From time to time, he runs off a printed copy, which is taken directly off the disc without any human typist. Moreover, the information on the disc is always kept up-to-date.

Duane has also put our beleaguered Bicentennial catalog on disc. We are awaiting presently quotes from several printers. As soon as we strike a deal with a printer, we will enter last-minute data onto the disc, then run off camera-ready copy for submission to the printer. Easy as pie! Only the photos will have to be mounted and tipped in manually.

The key to the above uses of the computer is the machine's ability to retain large amounts of information, and to keep them ready at moment's notice for retrieval. It acts as both file and file clerk, and can thus save the cataloguer hundreds of hours of tedious work.

Computerized data banks for numismatic research are no longer

just some distant dream. The American Numismatic Society has received a grant to establish partial computerization of their own collection. One of the curators, Dr. Michael Bates, is hoping to receive adequate funding for the establishment of a master file of Islamic coins in all public and private collections. The idea of such a master file was originally conceived by Eduar von Zambaur about 1920. He proceeded with the tedious task of transcribing several hundred published and unpublished lists of Islamic coins onto file cards, the result of which was a published index that appeared posthumously in 1968 (though printed in 1943 and kept in storage for 25 years!). More recently, Dr. George Miles, late director of the ANS, began a similar file, expanding on Zambaur's pioneer work. Bates has been continuing that project, but the prospect of computerization will radically alter both the nature of the file and the scope of the work. Should the project be implemented, the end result will be the capability of instantly produced up-to-date catalogues of any series of Islamic coins. Such publications now require years and years of preparation. Moreover, because of the low cost of printouts, it will no longer be necessary to print 1000 copies just to make the job economically feasible. One can print one, or five, or 500, at effectively the same unit cost, and can do a revised edition ten weeks later (if necessary) without any significant additional cost!

In theory, identical procedures can be adapted to tokens. In fact, the relative simplicity of token designs and legends is ideally amenable to such treatment. A central clearing house could be established, to which all collectors could report listings of pieces they believe unrecorded. These could be checked against existing records and simultaneously added to the data banks (if new). Moreover, with each collector receiving a coded designation, accurate statistics of ownership and population could be maintained, with the machine, not the cataloguer, performing the actual work.

Unfortunately, such a central token data bank would be costly. The equipment itself might entail an expenditure of $20,000 to $40,000, essentially a one-time investment, but ongoing expenses would be considerable. Unless enough volunteer assistance could be summmoned to keep abreast of new data submissions, hired staff, one or two persons, might be necessary. At today's salary levels, that would be at least $12,000 per person per year. Moreover, it would still require several years to integrate all existing token collections, public and private, into the system. Thus, the project would entail the disbursement of about $100,000 even before the first book rolled off the press.

Once such a system were in place, catalogues could be published in printout form as required, and at minimal cost. With a small profit added to cover the cost of maintaining the centralized operation and of amortizing startup expenses, the operation would soon become economically self-sufficient. Moreover, periodic editions of properly printed, hardbound editions, could generate more of the operating expenses. At present, sad to say, this is all a dream. The token-collecting fraternity is prob-

ably still insufficient to guarantee the feasibility of such an endeavor. But as the popularity of tokens continues to increase and more collectors arrive on the scene, and as the cost of the equipment comes down, the day may be barely around the corner before such a dream can be considered realizable.

In conclusion, I should mention that there is, in fact, an organization now in existence which has both the prestige and financial resources to undertake such a project. I refer to the Token and Medal Society. One must recall that approximately $50,000 was devoured in the production of just one book, Julian's impressive and fancily produced magnum opus on medals of the United States mint through 1889. For double or treble that amount, the Society could have begun a project that would eventually facilitate the ongoing production of exonumia publications at minimal cost, on a scale heretofore undreamt-of. Furthermore, with the cooperation of the American Numismatic Association, a facility could be set up in Colorado Springs that could share the capital expenditures between the two organizations, reducing thereby the costs to all.

Is this just a wild-eyed pipe dream? I don't think so. My prediction is that by the end of the 1980's, concrete steps towards the establishment of just such a capability will have already been undertaken. The ultimate success of such efforts will depend on the receptivity of the powers-that-be in the various numismatic associations that would have to become involved, and more directly, on the continuing desire of both collectors and researchers to put through such a project.

Book Review
= LUMBER COMPANY STORE TOKENS, BY TERRY TRANTOW =
by Duane H. Feisel

CATALOGUE OF LUMBER COMPANY STORE TOKENS, Terry N. Trantow, 1978 (appeared in 1979). Published by the author P.O. Box 524, Ellensburg, WA 98926. 6x9", green buckram hard cover, 270 pp + xix. $13.50 postpaid.

While lumbering operations have taken place over much of the country, principal activities have been concentrated in different sections at different times. Trantow shows that peak production years indicate that the main activity moved from Maine in 1840, to New York in 1850, to Pennsylvania in 1860, to the Great Lakes states in 1892, to the Southern pine regions in 1909, and finally to the Pacific Northwest in 1926.

Considering that the popularity in the use of trade tokens really began in about the 1880's in the east, peaked in the period from about 1900 to 1920 throughout the country, drastically declined in the war years from about 1940 to 1950, and finally has seen a revival in the 1960's and 1970's, one might guess the distribution

of lumber company store tokens by state.

An analysis of Trantow's book shows that the majority of the listings are for the Southern States--Texas 30 pp., Mississippi 26 pp., Louisiana 14 pp., Arkansas 14 pp., Alabama 11 pp., Florida 10 pp., Georgia 8 pp., North Carolina 8 pp., South Carolina 6 pp., and Kentucky 5 pp. This comprises over half the listings in the catalogue! West Virginia is really not a Southern Pine state, but it had considerable lumbering activity as evidenced by 12 pp. of listings. Other "Southern" states, each represented by three pages of listings, are Missouri, Tennessee and Virginia.

The Pacific Northwest region, including California, shows for Washington 11 pp., Oregon 11 pp., California 7 pp., and Idaho 3 pp.

The Great Lakes states show for Wisconsin 6 pp., Michigan 3 pp., Illinois 3 pp. (mostly fairly modern advertising pieces), and only one page each for Indiana and Ohio.

All states, except for Vermont, Rhode Island, Delaware and Wyoming have listings. For many of the states with minor listings, however, the pieces are mainly of an advertising nature for a lumber-related activity rather than being for a lumbering operation.

Trantow lists tokens in the "Atwood" style, popularized in the American Vecturist Association's catalogues of transportation, parking and car wash tokens, and utilized by other token cataloguers for trade tokens. This listing style is easy to use and understand. Trantow provides a rarity rating for each listing, and then relates the rarity to value through a modification of a rarity-price table devised by the National Scrip Collectors Association. I think the type of rarity-price table devised by Album, in which the rarity of the "place" is also considered, has greater validity. But in the end, value involves a willing seller and a willing buyer.

Sixteen pages of plates are provided at the end of the token listings. Shown are tokens, chits and paper scrip. The quality of the photographs is excellent--I only wish the pieces had been shown in their actual size instead of some indeterminate reduced size.

There is a complete index of 23 pages for all the listed tokens, not just the mavericks. This index will probably prove useful in attributing maverick tokens which come to light in the future. Speaking of mavericks, there are four pages of listings of those unattributed tokens.

Trantow has done an excellent job of gathering and presenting the listings for an historically important topical area. No matter what your collecting interest might be in trade tokens, this book belongs in your library.

If the catalogue has any weaknesses, they are in the typography and printing. The use of a carbon ribbon in preparing the camera-ready copy would have provided a vast improvement in quality of type and in readability. Copy preparation was not especially careful--there are numerous visibly overstruck characters, extra characters or parts of characters, uneven lines and unaligned columns, hand-drawn characters (some of which were needed to illustrate specific devices on certain tokens), and uneven margins. In the printing, there are great inconsistencies in the left and right and the top and bottom margins. In my copy many of the pages were trimmed crooked so that the type is visibly running up and down hill. Finally, the camera-ready copy was not "clean" in that there are numerous extraneous specks and marks appearing on the pages.

Beyond the mechanical defects, there are the usual typographic errors Providing completely accurate listings for trade tokens is a difficult task. Errors can occur in the original listing taken from the token itself which may have been made by the cataloguer or by the person reporting the token. Not always are those reporting tokens as careful in their listings as the cataloguer, and this is why most cataloguers ask for rubbings. Then the cataloguer has additional opportunities to make errors in putting the listings on cards, in transferring the card listings to a rough manuscript, and finally in preparing the finished manuscript. This is one reason why I am so enthusiastic about the use of word processing equipment in the preparation of trade token listings--once a listing is done correctly, it will be correct each time it is used thereafter. I did not do a thorough check of the listings, but leafing through the catalogue I noted the ommission of periods and commas from some of the token inscriptions, an error in the listings of sizes for the tokens from Shakan, Alaska (I believe the sizes should be 21, 27 and 34 mm, respectively, instead of 13, 16 and 21, which sizes are probably in 1/16" rather than mm), Arnold, CA is described as being in Riverside County when it is actually in Calaveras County, and the occasional ommission of a rarity rating. Trantow lists the county location for many of the places, but that information is lacking for a number of places which I could easily locate using my 1915 commercial atlas.

The book is enhanced by the historical tidbits of information which are interpolated in the listings, and by the introductory material which includes photographs of some lumbering locations.

= COMMENTS FROM OUR MEMBERS =

With the membership renewal forms for 1979, space was provided for comments concerning WESTS. Here are some of the replies we received:

"Keep up the good work."

"I'm too new as yet, but I find the paper interesting."

"Enjoy the LEDGER and the information it provides to new collectors."

"A good job is being done. I just wish that I had more time to make a contribution."

"I think the club has forgotten the original idea when the club started, which was to help each other with our collections, and it has become too commercial."

"Enjoy the issues very much. Will work hard to increase publicity and membership for WESTS."

"Wish I could get to more of the meetings. Am planning now to attend the one in San Francisco in April."

"I especially like the book reviews. I wish there were more articles on tokens of the northwestern states. As the LEDGER implies, it is to cover all western states. I certainly approve the membership roster with collecting interests."

"Keep up the good work!"

"Thanks to everyone working to keep WESTS going."

"Last issue of the LEDGER is very good."

"Wish there were more ads such as in METCA--auctions, etc. The articles and catalogue reviews are great."

"It is an important and enjoyable society for token collectors."

"I would like to congratulate the officers of this society for putting together an interesting publication."

"I appreciate the LEDGER."

"Great publication--the WESTERN TOKEN LEDGER."

"Enjoy the LEDGER though would like to see more articles on tokens from other states. California is too far away."

"I enjoy reading the WESTERN TOKEN LEDGER--it is a lot of help and keeps you posted."

"Hope to send an article soon."

"Sell more ads! Put an ad in TAMS for members."

"WESTS is doing a great job in the token collecting hobby in the western states. Keep up the good work!"

Thanks for all the kind words and for the various suggestions. Speaking for all those involved with the operations of WESTS, your interest is appreciated. It has long been apparent that our publication is the life-blood of the organization. Members are scattered all across the country, so not that many are able to attend our meetings. Those meetings are excellent for those who are able to attend. You can especially help your collections by meeting with other collectors.

Several things come out of the comments. First, I can appeal again for articles on tokens from your part of the country. We can only print what we get and what we ourselves write. For token articles on states other than California, we have to depend on you. I would add my comment to those above that I would also like to see more information on tokens from other states!

Next, although the comments concerning the LEDGER have all been favorable, we will continue to look for ways to improve. Perhaps more ads would be an improvement, and we would welcome that. Please note that every member is allowed a free six-line ad each issue. Also, our space advertising rates are, I believe, quite reasonable. Should be have an advertising manager to solicit space advertising and to work in setting up ads? It might work.

How can we better help one another with our collections? I think we are doing a lot now, but perhaps more could be done. Are there specific suggestions? Personally, I do not feel that our organization is too commercial, but perhaps I am missing something.

We can all work toward expanding our membership. I have been running free ads in the various publications of exonumia organizations of which I am a member, offering to send a sample copy of the LEDGER together with membership information for 28¢ in stamps for the mailing costs. This has resulted in a number of inquiries, and eventually in many of our new members. With a future issue of the LEDGER, we will send out a copy of our membership application form so that each member will have one on hand to give to one of his friends interested in tokens. In the meanwhile, if you know of someone interested, I will send out a sample copy of the LEDGER and a blank if you will provide the name and mailing address.

Finally, your comments and suggestions are welcome at any time--please let us know if you have something on your mind. - DHF

ORDER YOUR COPY of the lumber token book! 270 pp, hard cover, 14 pp photos. 1200 companies, 47 states listed! $13.50 to WESTS members.
Terry Trantow P.O. Box 524 Ellensburg, WA 98926

WANTED: BRYAN MONEY and struck U.S. politicals pre-1900. Buy or trade.
Benj Fauver P.O. Box 521 Menlo Park, CA 94025

MILITARY TOKENS of the U.S. 1866-1978, a second book by James Curto, will be released about April 15. Advance orders, at $10, will be accepted until that time, $12.50 afterwards. Orders shipped postpaid.
Paul Cunningham Box One Tecumseh, MI 49286

PATTON'S SALOON / GALT // Good For / 25 / Cents / In Trade Album Sac 38J, brass. Will sell or trade this California token for ????
Dennis Scott P.O. Box 373 Clovis, CA 93613

WANTED: CALIFORNIA--NEVADA tokens or wooden nickels. Have many traders or will pay cash.
J.L. McPheeters 472 W. Monterey Stockton, CA 95204

WANTED TO BUY: "Sambo" woods and prison tokens. For sale: red OPA's - 50 mixed $3.25, 29 diff. $6.50, 28 diff. $4.25. Blue OPA's - 15 diff $3.25. Sales Tax - 15 diff. $1.75 All postpaid.
George VanTrump, Jr. P.O. Box 26523 Lakewood, CO 80226

FOR SALE - Northampton, MA, official American Revolution Bicentennial medal, pewter; obverse three local patriots - Seth Pomeroy, Joseph Hawley, Caleb Strong; reverse American Revolution Bicentennial incused on eagle. $7.50 plus $1.50 postage. (Ad placed by D. R. Jackson)
Collegiate Ent. P.O. Box 37 Northampton, MA 01060

OVERLY ENTHUSIASTIC Nevada token collector wants to trade for rare Nevada pieces. I have territory tokens from Arizona, Washington and South Dakota.
W. V. Wright 220 South Bruce Las Vegas, NV 89101

SERIES I, II, III, IV Scripture tokens are available. Free ID piece just for sending for our price list. Series will run to 14 issues--two each year in May and November through 1983. Seven New Testament and seven from Hebrew Masoretic Text. Use also for greeting cards, reataurant tips, church prizes, etc. (Ad placed by Bob Putnam)
Scripture Tokens 1528 SE 151 Ave. Portland, OR 97233

WANTED: SOAP, KANSAS merchant, sports schedule and tokens featuring the surname Baum. Will buy or have many traders.
J. W. Baum 3101 N. Arkansas Ave. Wichita, KS 67204

CATALOG OF OKLAHOMA TOKENS by Lloyd Walker has just been released. It lists more than 4000 tokens for Oklahoma, and Oklahoma and Indian Territories. Most pieces are fully illustrated and priced. Maps and other related information are also included. Many other features also. Available at $25 postpaid. (Paid ad)
BNR Press Box 157 Portage, OH 43451

WANTED: MERCHANT TOKENS and wooden nickels from Butte County, California. What have you? Will buy or trade.
John Nopel 1505 Downing Ave. Chico, CA 95926

SAN FRANCISCO AMTOUR token, 5th edition, 75th celebration of the St. Francis Hotel (1904-1979); 40¢ plus SASE. Also a few left of the 4th edition Amtour token @40¢. Frontier Town, Montana, aluminum 5¢, 10¢, 25¢ in trade (unc.), all three for 50¢ plus SASE or take 100 each denomination (total 300) @10¢, split postage.
John G. Nicolosi 3002 Galindo St. Oakland, CA 94601

AMUSEMENT TOKENS WANTED, especially rare pieces and large quantities.
Stephen Alpert 11106 National Bl. Los Angeles, CA 90064

WESTERN TOKEN LEDGER back issues wanted for Missouri Numismatic Society library. Advise what is available at what cost to us.
Librarian P.O. Box 2829 St. Louis, MO 63111

OAKDALE, CALIF., IRA M. DE LONG / 25¢ in trade, brass. $1.50 or five for $6.00.
Dan Jacobson P.O. Box 7101 Sacramento, CA 95826

WILLIGES HAS PAID cash for more than 11,000 tokens and medals in 1978. Many more collections and accumualtions needed in 1979. Paying highest cash prices. Free 20 page fixed price list.
Bill Williges Box 445 Wheatland, CA 95692

YUKON AND B.C. tokens wanted, also information and rubbings for recording.
Leslie Hill Box 80129 S. Burnaby, BC, V5H 3X5, CANADA

HUNDREDS OF DIFFERENT modern California tokens offered for sale in my large listing; send 28¢ in stamps for mailing. Many pieces only thing available for a place.
Duane H. Feisel P.O. Box 1302 Los Altos, CA 94022

Members are allowed a free six-line ad in each issue. A different ad must be submitted each time. Please put your ad on a separate piece of paper, and do not include it as part of a letter. Please submit it as far as possible in advance of the publication deadline. Next issue deadline is April 22.

Calendar of Coming Events

APRIL 20-22 - Friday through Sunday. 64th Annual Convention, California State Numismatic Association, Jack Tar Hotel, Van Ness at Geary, San Francisco. Exhibits, bourse, special events, talks. Fri/Sat: 10 AM to 8 PM; Sunday 10 AM to 5 PM. Friday evening, 8 PM, Cathedral Hill Room B, speaker Duane H. Feisel, "Creation of a Medal--from Concept to Final Striking."

APRIL 21- Saturday. Semi-annual WESTS membership meeting, Jack Tar Hotel, San Francisco, CA. Meeting to begin at 3:30 PM, Forum Room. Speaker Stephen Album, California-related tokens and medals of the American Revolution Bicentennial Celebration.

MAY 6 - Sunday. Bay Area Token Society, regular membership meeting, home of Erle C. Hanson, 2599 Alice Way, Pinole, CA. Noon to 5 PM All exonumia collectors invited.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR 1979

JUNE - regional meeting in Nevada
JULY - regional meeting in Bay Area--tentative date July 15, home of Duane H. Feisel
SEPTEMBER - open
NOVEMBER - fall semi-annual membership meeting in Stockton

Other regional meetings to be added where there is sufficient local interest to schedule same.

Theme:
"Nautical Numismatics"

California State Numismatic Association
64th CONVENTION & COIN SHOW

SAN FRANCISCO - Jack Tar Hotel
APRIL 20 - 22, 1979
Fri/Sat: 10 am - 8 pm Sunday: 10 am - 5 pm

• EXHIBITS • SALES • SPECIAL EVENTS • TALKS •

Convention Chairman: O.L. Wallis, 58 Tan Oak Circle, San Rafael, CA 94903, (415) 472-1076

Bourse Coordinator: Wm. O. Wisslead, 2053 Cypress Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92707, (714) 545-0030

Exhibit Chairman: Mike Stanley, 2107 Gill Dr., Concord, CA 94520, (415) 825-0649

WESTERN STATES TOKEN SOCIETY
Duane H. Feisel
P. O. Box 1302
Los Altos, CA 94022

First Class Mail